



Tweed Trout & Grayling Initiative Newsletter

No. 19 – 2021 River Teviot

2020 River Teviot Brown Trout Catch Summary



A 10" Brown Trout from the River Teviot. Catches of Brown Trout around this size were below average during the 2020 trout fishing season.

Only four anglers submitted catch returns for the Teviot for the 2020 trout fishing season covering 14 fishing trips and 48 hours of angling effort.

The catch rate of both undersize (<10") and oversize (10"+) trout during the 2020 fishing season was much reduced compared to the 2019 season and was below the average for the previous 10 years. It is possible that the lack of fishing in April and May, as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown, may have impacted the oversize catch rate (April and May are usually amongst the best months for catches of oversize Brown Trout). The Teviot catches went against the trend for the rest of the Tweed catchment where catches of oversize trout were generally well above average.

Despite the below average catches during 2020 the overall trend in catches for both undersize and oversize trout from the Teviot between 2006 and 2020 is still one of slowly improving catches.

In stark contrast to the Brown Trout catches, the average catch rate for both undersize and oversize Grayling from the Teviot during 2020 was the highest since the current catch recording scheme began in 2006.



Grayling catches during the 2020 fishing season were the highest on record.



Harden Burn Fish Easement

The Harden Burn is a trout spawning burn which flows into the Borthwick Water, itself a tributary of the River Teviot. Electro-fishing results had shown that a bridge apron at the bottom of the burn was preventing adult trout accessing the burn at spawning time, resulting in very low juvenile numbers.

In Autumn 2018 The Tweed Foundation, with assistance from the Hawick Angling Club, installed an easement to fish passage on the bridge apron to see if it would allow spawning trout to pass over. In November 2019 both Sea Trout and Brown Trout were witnessed spawning in the burn above the bridge.



During the 2020 Harden Burn electro-fishing survey 19 juvenile trout were captured from the "pool" in the picture above. Before the easement was installed this pool would have held few, if any, trout.

Following on from these observations an electro-fishing survey was carried out on the burn in summer 2020. The results showed a dramatic increase in juvenile trout numbers, when compared to the electro-fishing survey carried out before the installation of the easement. The burn is now producing much higher numbers of juvenile Brown Trout and Sea Trout which will move downstream as they grow into the areas fished by Brown Trout and Sea Trout anglers or out to sea.

Tweed Foundation Facebook Page

For updates on the work of The Tweed Foundation and the Tweed Trout & Grayling Initiative, please visit The Tweed Foundation's Facebook page.

